

## Northern Region Quality Improvement Committee

April 22, 2009

### Minutes

Present:	Carol Baumann	Daryl Melton	Sheri Engar
	Brenda Durtschi	Pam Hugie	Joyce Booth
	Pam Clark	Jean Marie Morris	Sarah Pomeroy
	Linda Melton	Estelle Dahlkemper	Patty Connor-Rose
	Crystal Atwood	Nancy Xenede	Teresa Fowers
	Daniel Webster	Pat Ropeleto	Craig Monson
	Sally Jones	Eileen Nicholas	Sylvia Cobabe

Absent:	Pam Nacario	Debee Gold	Pat Milar
	Bob Burch	Mary Francisco	Jeff Tesch
	Rhett Fronk		

Guests:	Brian Young	Maegen Bernardo
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Daryl

- Introductions and welcome to the new members.  
One of our new members, Crystal, will be representing the foster youth. She was previously in foster care and she and her husband are currently attending the foster care training to become foster parents.

Daryl

- Review Last month's minutes and assignments:
  - QI Budget – we are still in the black on the budget and are still doing alright.
  - Carol will follow up on her assignment from February concerning Consent to Search.
  - Carol checked with Stephanie and she has two recommendations for the consumer panel for the Immersion Day. Stephanie will follow up with names.
  - Daryl has made contact with Kari Burns.
  - Brenda spoke with Jeanne Godfrey about Inner Faith Committee and she will follow up with this and report back in our next meeting.
  - Patty will follow up on her assignment to contact an adoptive mother she knows.
  - Jean Marie will follow up on recruiting someone from a kinship placement.
  - Sally reported she did contact Standard Examiner and they said that they will attend. Sally will follow up with this to see if someone can attend our next meeting.
  - Pam – amending the Family Support Center's contract. Pam talked to Cheryl Schilling concerning what a part time person could do. Cheryl said she will look at drawing up a contract. Pam will talk to Cheryl to see what time frame we are looking at. Pam will get her the scope of work this will involve and will report back at our next meeting.

- Review Quarterly Data: Handout: Utah Department of Human Services Child and Family Services
  - The children on the front cover are children from our Region. They were adopted in March of this year.
  - All the children in book are children on the Heart Gallery.
  - Representatives from the Federal Government are coming to review us next year and these are the goals that need to be met in every state. No state has passed this review. Our Ogden office will be one of the sites that they will physical come and review. We are gearing up as a state at this time.
  - Carol will send an email with information where to find the Second Quarter report. Please read it, especially the Northern Region Stats, and if there are any concerns please bring to the meeting.
- Reviewed QCR Scores – Handout: FY2009 Qualitative Case Review – Northern Region – Preliminary Data
  - We had fantastic scores. We scored a 100% Systems – no Region has ever scored 100% on Systems.
  - Permanency did very well.
  - Carol thanked all those that participated in the QCR.
- Review from Committee Members on QCR:
  - Committee members Daryl, Linda, Estelle, Brenda, Craig, Joyce and Pat and Sylvia all reported on the incredible experience it was for them to be a part of the QCR's.
  - They encouraged all committee members to participate next year.
- Next Project:
  - We will keep working on information for the Search Project and keep you updated on the progress.
- Foster Parents Discussion – Guests: Maegen Bernardo and Brian Young  
Brenda Durtschi – Recruitment – Foster Care Foundation
  - When a person calls inquiring about becoming a foster parent the Recruiter tries during the phone conversation, to find out the motivation for becoming a foster parent. A packet is sent out that gives more information and they are invited to call back if they are still interested. If they call back and are still interested, a Recruiter goes to home their home for the initial consultation and determines at that time whether or not to refer them to take the foster parent training. They also do group recruiting meetings.
  - Initial consultation in the home is about 1 hour. They try to have honest conversations and hope the perspective foster parents are honest with them and have good integrity.
  - The Recruiters discuss those families they have concerns with. Some do not show up for training and if they are the ones they have concerns about, they do not call back.

- Brian Young – Foster Parent Trainer – Foster Care Foundation
  - Brian said in his foster parent training classes he emphasis that the goal is reunification, but if that is not possible then adoption is the goal.
  - Some that only want to adopt stop coming to the training.
  - He has never seen a time when the same number that start finish the training.
  - He tries hard to help parents realize and try to understand what it is like from the child's perspective being in a foster home.
  - There are always those attending classes that are going to hear things but not internalize.
- Teresa Fowers - Licensing – Office of Licensing
  - Office of Licensing go out after training. Teresa always asks the question “Why do they want to do this!?” She will be very honest and call them on things they discuss.
  - If in doing the home study they meet all the criteria, even though they have concerns, they still have to license them and pass them on to DCFS.
  - She said people do lie to become foster parents and are not completely honest.
  - Jean Marie asked what if a foster home was a Specific foster home for a child and wants to be regular foster parent, what do they do. Teresa said they fill out a new application, return the application to their licenser and they will change to general foster care. They can use the same home study that Jean Marie has completed.
- Maegen Bernardo – Supervisor/Resource Family Consultants - DCFS
  - A Resource Family Consultant is assigned to a foster parent as soon as they finish training.
  - The Resource Family Consultant team receives the home study from Licensing and reviews the home study together in their Permanency Committee meeting. They discuss whether or not to approve the family at this time. If there are serious concerns, a meeting is scheduled for Administration to attend to discuss the potential foster family.
  - When the foster family is approved, the RFCs work with the families and help to bring out the best in them as foster parents and what children are best to be placed in their home.
  - If a child does go back home, it is encouraged to continue a relationship with the foster parent that was in their life.
  - New foster parents sometimes have unrealistic expectations.
  - Foster parents have Cluster Meetings, which are a great resource and support to get together and discuss different concerns being a foster parent. A RFC also attends these meetings.
- Discussion:
  - Possible next Project – Foster Parent Disruptions/Situations
  - Craig will be in charge of a Sub Committee. Pam Hugie, Patty Connor-Rose and Nancy Xenede-Card volunteered to work with Craig on this committee. They will gather information and specific data and report back in our next meeting.

- Teresa and Maegen will work together gathering information on disruptions that took place in a twelve month period.

Our next meeting will be on May 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00.  
Thanks!